



The Old Ironsides Report

Monday, May 10, 2004



Soldiers see urban operations in 'glass house'

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1AD PAO
WITH TASK FORCE 1-37 ARMOR. Iraq -- Navigating down hallways and securing rooms, the Soldiers of C Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, yell out their positions to each other.

Each man has an assigned task. The team spreads down the walls until all corners have been locked down and secured.

The house they've just secured is two-dimensional. Its walls are strips of white engineer tape pinned into the ground in assorted rectangular shapes.

This "dwelling" is known as a "Glass House."

The house may be a life-size floor plan, but the action inside is just as real to these Soldiers as if it were somebody's home.

C Company, 1-36, is now operating out of Camp Lima near Karbala as part of Task Force 1-37 Armor in support of Operation Iron Saber.

Glass Houses are not new to these Soldiers. However, the configuration and floor plan of an Iraqi home is radically different from plans used for European structures.

There, Soldiers training for urban operations used western-style house floor plans. They were not ready for what they found in Baghdad when they hit the ground in Iraq almost one year ago.

"The first house that we came into in Iraq -- we were so surprised at the layout," said Staff Sgt. Rogelio Cortes, 2nd Platoon squad leader. "It was a lesson-learned. After we did our first house raid, we had to adjust how we thought it would look."

Keeping these Soldiers safe while accomplishing their tasks is paramount to Cortes. Proper and repeated training is how that goal is achieved, he said.

"I want them to be proficient so that once we get into a room we can dominate it," Cortes says. "This way we create a foothold for the rest of the platoon or another squad to come through safely."

Despite the heat and unknown terrain, the Soldiers of 1-36 Infantry must complete their mission. Fighting in an urban environment is one of the most challenging missions a Soldier can encounter.

"It's very, very hard to train for an urban fight,"



Spc. Dennis Wells, a grenadier with C Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, practices urban movement and security drills inside a "glass house" at Camp Lima near Karbala, Iraq. Attached to Task Force 1-37 Armor, C Company moved to Karbala from Baghdad in support of Operation Iron Saber.

said team leader Spc. Michael Shea. "There are a lot of new techniques. (The only way to learn) is by repetition."

Grenadier Spc. Dennis Wells said the drill is a key training tool for his squad.

"It teaches us how to deal with combat in an urban environment, clear a room, take down the enemy," says Wells. "We've had a lot of training on the job as well as courses like this."

Despite the challenge and dangers found in urban warfare, Wells said is just part of being an infantryman.

"I wanted to be in the infantry," he said. "I joined at 25 years old, and I'm 28 now. It's what I want to do."



The 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, working with 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, continues work in the Kut community by submitting contracts for renovation work for nine community schools. The team supervises the work while Iraqi contractors and workers complete the job. A new septic tank is being installed at the Tabook Primary School. The Al Hazma Primary School is getting a complete overhaul of its electrical system. At the Koutha Primary School, workers cleared out the septic system so new pumps and pipes could be installed. A later contract calls for water-cooling systems to be installed at 16 schools throughout Kut. Photo by Capt. Sean Kirley, 2nd ACR Regimental PAO

NEWS...

First Soldier Faces Court-Martial in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A 24-year-old U.S. military policeman will be the first soldier to face a court-martial in connection with the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, the military said Sunday. Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits of Hyndman, Pa., a member of the 372nd Military Police Company, will stand trial in Baghdad on May 19, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said.

Teen Confesses He Created 'Sasser' Worm

HANOVER, Germany (AP) - A German high-school student has confessed to creating the "Sasser" worm that generated chaos across the globe by infecting hundreds of thousands of computers, authorities said Saturday. The teenager, whose name was not released, was arrested Friday in the northern village of Waffensen, where he lives with his family. In a search of the suspect's home, German investigators confiscated his customized computer, which contained the worm's source code.

European Shuttle Prototype Lands Safely

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - An unmanned prototype of a European space shuttle glided safely back to Earth on Saturday after being dropped from nearly 8,000 feet up by a helicopter. Guided by Global Positioning System satellites, the German-designed EADS Phoenix was dropped by a heavy-duty helicopter over Sweden at 9:45 a.m. and "landed perfectly" 90 seconds later on a test runway north of Stockholm, a project spokeswoman said.

Casablanca Finally Gets a Rick's Cafe

By NICOLAS MARMIE, Associated Press Writer

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP) -- There's a new gin joint in town, and now everybody comes to Rick's. In homage to the movie "Casablanca," a former U.S. diplomat has opened a Rick's Cafe in this bustling port city. But you won't find Sam at the keyboard - these days, the pianist's name is Issam.

The elegant nightclub where Humphrey Bogart's character Rick pined for Ingrid Bergman's Ilsa was just a set on a Warner Bros. sound stage in California.

The new Rick's has the same warm atmosphere as the Hollywood original. It's a white villa near the port, with palm trees flanking the door. Inside are arched passageways and traditional hanging lamps of colored glass.

And there's not a single photo of Bogart on the walls.

"Rick's Cafe is no longer just a film, it's not a museum, it's a reality," said founder Kathy Kriger, sipping a glass of Moroccan cabernet. Nearby, waiters in traditional fez caps and wide-legged pants serve customers at candlelit tables.

The elegant restaurant, which debuted in March, is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. A typical meal costs around \$30.

Pianist Issam Chabaa, who is from the capital, Rabat, plays songs from the '40s and '50s. On Sunday nights, Kriger serves popcorn and chili con carne and screens Casablanca.

Kriger, says she watched the classic film hundreds of times to study the atmosphere, lighting and lines.

Kriger left her job as a commercial attaché at the U.S. consulate in Casablanca when she was supposed to transfer to Tokyo in 2002. She'd become too attached to her new home.

She scouted for locations and decided to open the restaurant in Casablanca's medina, a bustling labyrinth of narrow streets and shops. It took months to get the various authorizations, including a liquor license - no small task in this mostly Muslim nation.

Kriger said she wanted to promote American-Moroccan dialogue in the North African kingdom, which stretches from the Mediterranean to the Sahara.

"After Sept. 11, I realized that maybe certain authentic American values were no longer understood in the Muslim world," Kriger said. "I wanted to show how Americans can be: open, determined and persevering."

Many Moroccans have become deeply resentful of U.S. policies, especially after the war in Iraq.

The Moroccan government, however, is one of the Muslim world's closest U.S. allies, and Washington has routinely praised Morocco for its democratic changes under King Mohammed VI, who took the throne after the death of his father, King Hassan II, in 1999.

Kriger, a native of Portland, Ore., says she hopes to show a positive image of Americans by doing business in Morocco.

Thought for the day...

Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words: "I admit that I was wrong." The five most important words: "You did a great job." The four most important words: "What do you think?" The three most important words: "Could you please..." The two most important words: "Thank you." The most important word: "We." The least important word: "I."

Today in history...

May 10, 1994: NELSON MANDELA INAUGURATED

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- In South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is sworn in as the first black president of South Africa. In his inaugural address, Mandela, who spent 27 years of his life as a political prisoner of the South African government, declared that "the time for the healing of the wounds has come." Two weeks earlier, more than 22 million South Africans had turned out to cast ballots in the country's first-ever multiracial parliamentary elections. An overwhelming majority chose Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) party to lead the country.

Mandela, born in 1918, was the son of the chief of the Xhosa-speaking Tembu people. Instead of succeeding his father as chief, Mandela went to university and became a lawyer. In 1944, he joined the African National Congress (ANC), a black political organization dedicated to winning rights for the black majority in white-ruled South Africa. In 1948, the racist National Party came to power, and apartheid--South Africa's institutionalized system of white supremacy and racial segregation--became official government policy. With the loss of black rights under apartheid, black enrollment in the ANC rapidly grew. Mandela became one of the ANC's leaders and in 1952 was made deputy national president of the ANC. He organized nonviolent strikes, boycotts, marches, and other acts of civil disobedience.

After the massacre of peaceful black demonstrators at Sharpeville in 1960, Nelson helped organize a paramilitary branch of the ANC to engage in acts of sabotage against the white minority government. He was tried for and acquitted of treason in 1961 but in 1962 was arrested again for illegally leaving the country. Convicted and sentenced to five years at Robben Island Prison, he was put on trial again in 1963 with seven others on charges of sabotage, treason, and conspiracy. In the celebrated Rivonia Trial, named after the suburb of Johannesburg where ANC weapons were found, Mandela eloquently defended his actions. On June 12, 1964, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mandela spent the first 18 of his 27 years in jail at the brutal Robben Island Prison. He was confined to a small cell without a bed or plumbing and was forced to do hard labor in a quarry. He could write and receive a letter once every six months, and once a year he was allowed to meet with a visitor for 30 minutes. However, Mandela's resolve remained unbroken, and while remaining the symbolic leader of the anti-apartheid movement, he led a movement of civil disobedience at the prison that coerced South African officials into drastically improving conditions on Robben Island. In 1982 he was moved to Pollsmoor Prison on the mainland, and in 1988 to a cottage, where he lived under house arrest.

In 1989, F.W. de Klerk became South African president and set about dismantling apartheid. De Klerk lifted the ban on the ANC, suspended executions, and on February 11, 1990, ordered the release of Nelson Mandela. Mandela subsequently led the ANC in its negotiations with the minority government for an end to apartheid and the establishment of a multiracial government. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. On April 26, 1994, the country's first free elections were won by Mandela and the ANC, and a "national unity" coalition was formed with de Klerk's National Party and the Zulus' Inkatha Freedom Party. On May 10, Mandela was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by numerous international dignitaries.

As president, Mandela established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate human rights violations under apartheid and introduced numerous initiatives designed to improve the living standards of South Africa's black population. In 1996, he presided over the enactment of a new South African constitution. Mandela retired from politics in June 1999 at the age of 80. He was succeeded as president by Thabo Mbeki of the ANC.

Legal Services Return

Legal Assistance is once again available for soldiers on the Baghdad International Airport, although the location has changed. Soldiers are advised to review their Powers of Attorney - they may be nearing their expiration date. Individual soldiers in need of a power of attorney, a will, basic legal advice, or just a listening ear, should stop by the Legal Support Center located on the 2nd floor of "Hotel California." Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week.

If more practical, units may request a dedicated "JAG day" and have Legal Assistance visit the unit itself.

Additionally, if you have had to cancel your travel plans as a result of 1AD's extension, Legal Assistance is initiating a campaign to try and help soldiers obtain refunds. For further information, please contact SPC Redulla, SGT Matsudo, or CPT Dohn at 551-0694.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004

As of: Sunday, May 09, 2004 9:02:44 PM

| Start Time | SPORTS | ATLANTIC | SPECTRUM | PACIFIC | NEWS | Start Time |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 0:00 | MLB - MINNESOTA TWINS @ OAKLAND A'S | | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 1: CALGARY FLAMES @ SAN JOSE SHARKS | CNN SUNDAY | 0:00 |
| 1:00 | | | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | | MEET THE PRESS | 1:00 |
| 1:30 | | | TIME MACHINE: FIRST MOTHERS | | | 1:30 |
| 2:00 | | ESPNEWS | | | TIM RUSSERT | 2:00 |
| 2:30 | | SPORTSCENTER | | ESPNEWS | | 2:30 |
| 3:00 | USA SOCCER - WOMEN'S - MEXICO @ USA | HEADLINE NEWS | THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - KUALITY AND KUANTITY | SESAME STREET | FOX REPORT | 3:00 |
| 3:30 | | SEINFELD (TV14): - THE NON-FAT YOGURT | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NAUGHTY NAUTICAL NEIGHBORS/ BOAT SCHOOL | | | 3:30 |
| 4:00 | | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BROTHER FROM THE SAME PLANET | DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - THE BIG POTATO | THIS WEEK | 4:00 |
| 4:30 | | | THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR | WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG): | | 4:30 |
| 5:00 | AFL - SAN JOSE SABRECATS @ ARIZONA RATTlers | | AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - FAT CHANCE | THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG): | DATELINE INTERNATIONAL | 5:00 |
| 6:00 | | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - TANGLED | THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG): | 60 MINUTES | 6:00 |
| 7:00 | | MEET THE PRESS | MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - ROAD RAMP | HEADLINE NEWS | CNN PRESENTS | 7:00 |
| 7:30 | | | | JUDGE JUDY (TVPG): | | 7:30 |
| 8:00 | ESPNEWS | HEADLINE NEWS | THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - LETHAL ENCOUNTER | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD | LARRY KING LIVE | 8:00 |
| 8:25 | | | | GUIDING LIGHT (TV14): | | 8:25 |
| 8:30 | BASEBALL TONIGHT | ESPNEWS | | | | 8:30 |
| 9:00 | | SESAME STREET | CONAN THE DESTROYER | | CNN SUNDAY NIGHT | 9:00 |
| 9:13 | | | | GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14): | | 9:13 |
| 9:30 | SPORTSCENTER | | | | | 9:30 |
| 10:00 | | DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - THE BIG POTATO | | LILo & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - FIBBER | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD | 10:00 |
| 10:30 | | WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG): | | DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE EARTHQUAKE OF METAL GREYMON | | 10:30 |
| 11:00 | PGA TOUR - THE WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP: FINAL ROUND | THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG): | THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - KUALITY AND KUANTITY | I SPY (TVY): - A BROOM, A WHISTLE, AND A DRUM/SKY HIGH | BELTWAY BOYS | 11:00 |
| 11:30 | | | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NAUGHTY NAUTICAL NEIGHBORS/ BOAT SCHOOL | EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - THIN ICE | FOX NEWS WATCH | 11:30 |
| 11:46 | | THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG): | | | | 11:46 |
| 12:00 | | | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BROTHER FROM THE SAME PLANET | JEOPARDY! (TVG): | BULLS & BEARS | 12:00 |
| 12:30 | | | THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR | HEADLINE NEWS | CAVUTO ON BUSINESS | 12:30 |
| 12:35 | | GUIDING LIGHT (TV14): | | | | 12:35 |
| 12:52 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | | 12:52 |
| 13:00 | | | AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - FAT CHANCE | ESPNEWS | DATELINE NBC | 13:00 |
| 13:17 | | GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14): | | | | 13:17 |
| 13:30 | | | | HEADLINE NEWS | | 13:30 |
| 13:52 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | | 13:52 |
| 14:00 | SPORTSCENTER | HEADLINE NEWS | LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - TANGLED | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | 60 MINUTES | 14:00 |
| 14:30 | | JUDGE JUDY (TVPG): | | | | 14:30 |
| 15:00 | | TODAY | MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - ROAD RAMP | | GOOD MORNING AMERICA | 15:00 |
| 15:30 | NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 3: DETROIT PISTONS @ NEW JERSEY NETS | | | | | 15:30 |
| 16:00 | | | THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - LETHAL ENCOUNTER | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | | 16:00 |
| 17:00 | | LILo & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - FIBBER | CONAN THE DESTROYER | HEADLINE NEWS | HEADLINE NEWS | 17:00 |
| 17:22 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | | 17:22 |
| 17:30 | | DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE EARTHQUAKE OF METAL GREYMON | | TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG): | CHANNEL ONE | 17:30 |
| 17:45 | | | | | ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING | 17:45 |
| 18:00 | INSIDE THE NBA | I SPY (TVY): - A BROOM, A WHISTLE, AND A DRUM/SKY HIGH | | | THE EARLY SHOW | 18:00 |
| 18:30 | | EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - THIN ICE | | THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG): | | 18:30 |
| 19:00 | SPORTSCENTER | JEOPARDY! (TVG): | THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - KUALITY AND KUANTITY | | | 19:00 |
| 19:30 | | HEADLINE NEWS | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NAUGHTY NAUTICAL NEIGHBORS/ BOAT SCHOOL | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD | | 19:30 |
| 20:00 | | ESPNEWS | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BROTHER FROM THE SAME PLANET | ALIEN 3 | DATELINE NBC | 20:00 |
| 20:30 | MLB - PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES @ ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS | HEADLINE NEWS | THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR | | | 20:30 |
| 21:00 | | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - FAT CHANCE | | 60 MINUTES | 21:00 |
| 22:00 | | | LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - TANGLED | THE FRENCH CONNECTION | FOX NEWS LIVE | 22:00 |
| 22:30 | BASEBALL TONIGHT | | | | | 22:30 |
| 23:00 | | SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG): | MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - ROAD RAMP | | HEADLINE NEWS | 23:00 |
| 23:30 | THE HOT LIST | | | | INSIDE POLITICS | 23:30 |